

AmeriCorps Funding Crisis – Bulletin #3, June 26, 2003

Severe Cuts Hitting AmeriCorps

Michigan's AmeriCorps is being devastated by 85 percent funding cuts that will begin September 1, 2003. Background information is provided at the end of this Bulletin.

The National News

- A web site has been created to help save AmeriCorps (www.saveamericorps.org). The web site has four main areas:
 1. Call – your U.S. Senators and Representatives
 2. Write – the a letter to the news media
 3. Subscribe – for email updates
 4. Share – your AmeriCorps story

Visit www.saveamericorps.org today!

- The private sector—businesses, foundations, etc.—care about AmeriCorps. A full-page ad was taken out in the New York Times today asking President Bush and Congress to save AmeriCorps. The add will run in national newspapers for the next week or so. To view the ad, visit <http://www.saveamericorps.org/PressRoom/NYTimesAd.pdf>. This ad is sponsored by Starbucks.

The Statewide News

- The Michigan Public Policy Institute, a program of the Michigan Nonprofit Association, continues to track the issue. For more information on the public policy ramifications, contact Erin Skene at skeneeri@mnaonline.org.
- Find out how the AmeriCorps funds will impact Michigan's communities. [Click here](#) for more information.
- Since June 13, 2003 newspapers in Michigan have had 25 articles about the AmeriCorps funding cuts. The following newspapers have run stories:
 - June 26th –
 - Detroit Free Press
http://www.freep.com/voices/editorials/eameri26_20030626.htm
 - The Grand Rapids Press
<http://www.mlive.com/search/index.ssf?/base/news-9/1056658500291260.xml?grpress?NEG>
 - June 22nd – Lansing State Journal, Battle Creek Enquirer
 - June 20th – Daily News (Midland), The Muskegon Chronicle
 - June 19th – Daily Mining Gazette
 - June 18th – Battle Creek Enquirer, Daily News (Midland), Daily Press (Escanaba), Detroit News (2 articles), Flint Journal, Jackson Citizen Patriot, Lansing State Journal, Manistee News Advocate, Oakland Press, Times Herald (Port Huron), Petoskey News, Saginaw News

- June 16th – Detroit Free Press
- June 15th – Bay City Times, Jackson Citizen Patriot, Traverse City Record Eagle
- June 13th – Petoskey News

The Local Stories

Are you concerned about the AmeriCorps funding cuts? Please tell us your story. Send an email message to MCSC-News@michigan.gov.

Background Information

Three issues are impacting Michigan's AmeriCorps programs:

1. Michigan's AmeriCorps program funding is being cut from \$6.2 million to \$900,000.
2. The balance in the Education Award Trust will not support President Bush's call for 75,000 members.
3. A cap has been placed on the number of AmeriCorps members who can enroll nationwide.

These issues are a result of accountability gaps on the part of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the federal agency that oversees AmeriCorps funding, and the subsequent response of the U.S. Congress.